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1988/07/29

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Q: Any comment on the Senate Resolution on China Missile sales to the Middle East?

A: -- WE SHARE THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE RESOLUTION THAT THE SALE OF BALLISTIC MISSILES TO VOLATILE REGIONS SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA CONTRIBUTES TO FURTHER INSTABILITY. WE ALSO AGREE WITH THE GOALS EXPRESSED IN THE RESOLUTION THAT ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM SUCH TRANSFERS.

-- AS THE RESOLUTION CORRECTLY STATES, SECRETARY SHULTZ AND OTHER US OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED OUR CONCERNS OVER BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION WITH THE CHINESE AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND WILL DO SO AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

-- THE IMPLICATIONS OF BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION AFFECT THE INTERESTS OF MANY COUNTRIES AND REQUIRE A COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BEGUN DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BEIJING ON THIS SUBJECT IS THE BEST WAY OF PURSUING OUR CONCERNs WITH CHINA OVER THIS PROBLEM.

-- AS FOR CHINESE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO IRAN, OUR INFORMATION IS THAT NEW SILKWORM DELIVERIES TO IRAN HALTED MANY YEARS AGO, ALTHOUGH SHIPMENTS OF OTHER CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTINUES. WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS SITUATION CLOSELY.

Drafted: EAP/CM:JRD
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